



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Education for All

Inclusion

Education for Sustainable Development

Adult Learning

Higher Education and Research

Four international conferences to promote equity, quality, relevance and social responsibility in education

Education is a right and a foundation for sustainable social and economic development. Poverty cannot be alleviated without education. Today's knowledge-driven economies rely on opportunities to learn throughout life. They demand the ability to adapt to rapid change and to respond to crisis.

Education empowers people with the knowledge and skills to improve their lives and with the values and attitudes to live together. But despite international commitments, education is a right still denied to millions of children, youth and adults around the world. As they expand to accommodate more learners, education systems are challenged to develop strategies that promote inclusion, quality learning, flexibility and innovation.

This cycle of conferences brings together a wide array of influential stakeholders in the common interest of creating education systems that serve the needs of all learners, address the challenges of today's world and make learning a springboard of development.

Geneva, Switzerland 25-28 November 2008

Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future

48th session of the International Conference on Education

Today's education systems face the challenge of reaching over 75 million out-of-school children and 776 million illiterate youth and adults, and of creating learning environments that respond to increasingly diverse student populations. How can education contribute to foster greater social inclusion and cohesion?

How can the educational process adapt to different learning needs and enrich lives? How can the fundamental right to education be fulfilled for all, regardless of circumstances and background?

Inclusion calls for legislation, policies and practices that ensure access to meaningful learning for all. It is a foundation for building more equitable and sustainable societies.

Website: www.ibe.unesco.org

The Conference

Bonn, Germany 31 March-2 April 2009

Moving into the Second Half of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

Education enables people to acquire the values, knowledge and skills required for a more sustainable future. Moreover, education and learning opportunities can help people find new solutions to the social, economic and environmental issues affecting their lives. To what extent are countries integrating the principles of sustainable development into teaching and learning processes, curricula and content? How are these principles being shared in formal and non-formal educational settings, in the media and at community level, and how are they being applied? This conference will take stock of how far countries have come in making sustainable development an integral part of education and learning, and will identify key strategies for the way ahead.

Website: www.esd-world-conference-2009.org

Belém, Brazil 19-22 May 2009

Learning and Living for a Viable Future: the Power of Adult Learning

CONFINTEA VI – Sixth International Conference on Adult Education

Adult learning and education is a fundamental aspect of the right to learn throughout life. It is all the more vital in light of rapid socio-economic changes, technological advances and growing inequalities within and between countries. In this context, giving adults the opportunity to acquire and enhance their knowledge, competences and skills to make informed choices and improve their lives is crucial. Adult learning and education empowers individuals and carries invaluable social returns, through increasing productivity, community participation, active citizenship and political awareness. No national or international policy agenda aimed at strengthening education and promoting sustainable development will be successful without providing equitable and high-quality learning opportunities to all adults. This conference, drawing on regional recommendations, will aim to produce a global commitment to adult learning with clear strategies and targets for building a common viable future.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org/uil>

Cycle

Paris, France 5-8 July 2009

The New Dynamics of Higher Education and Research for Societal Change and Development

2009 World Conference on Higher Education

The field of higher education is undergoing intense transformation marked by massification worldwide, unmet demand in the developing world, and the rapid growth of new providers – private, cross-border and ICT-enhanced. What are the policy implications of these trends with regard to equity of access and academic quality? How is higher education contributing through research and knowledge-sharing to addressing today's key social and economic challenges? This conference will provide a global platform for debate among different stakeholders on actions to ensure that higher education meets national development objectives and individual aspirations while also playing a major role in the global knowledge society.

Website: <http://www.unesco.org/education/hed>

***Achieving the right to education
is the foundation for building a truly inclusive society,
where all people learn together and participate equally.
Providing quality education for all remains one of the biggest
development challenges of our time***

Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General

Education is

UNESCO's top priority.

The Organization coordinates the global drive towards Education for All and leads the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). Through international cooperation, information sharing, policy advice, standard-setting and advocacy, UNESCO

aims to make the right to quality education a reality for every child, youth and adult.

***Education is the most
powerful weapon which you
can use to change the world.***

**Nelson Mandela, former president
of South Africa and 1993
Nobel Peace Prize laureate**

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